



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

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24 th December 2023 Psalter Week 4	Fourth Sunday of Advent Year of Mark (B) – Ferial Lectionary: Year II	
First Reading	Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 <i>The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	I will sing forever of your love, O Lord	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27 <i>The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38 <i>Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.</i>	
Saturday 23 rd December +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (Jean & Michael Griffin RIP)
Sunday 24 th December +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ		
CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 th December +	6.00pm 9.00pm	Vigil Mass – Deceased Members of the DHS Mass During the Night – Fr David Ints.
CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25 th December +	8.00am 10.30am	Mass at Dawn – (For the Parish) Mass During the Day – Isaac Obiorah RIP
Tuesday 26 th December ST STEPHEN - Feast	10.00am	Mass – (Shaunagh Harte RIP)
Wednesday 27 th December ST JOHN – Apostle & Evangelist - Feast	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Peter Carr RIP)
Thursday 28 th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS – Martyrs	7.00pm	Mass – (Oscar & Thelma van Reyk RIP)
Friday 29 th December ST THOMAS BECKETT – Bishop & Martyr - Feast in Diocese	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Maureen Cowie & Catherine Reilly RIP)
Saturday 30 th December Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Deacon Peter's Ints.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		
Saturday – 30 th December +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 31 st December +	10.30am	Mass – (James Crilly RIP)

NOTE: MASS ON THURSDAY EVENING IS AT 7.00pm



Christmas Mass Readings

Children's Vigil Mass (6.00pm)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord
Second Reading: Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Mass During the Night (9.00pm)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
Psalm: Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.
Second Reading: St Paul to Titus 2:11-14
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn (8.00am)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12
Psalm: This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.
Second Reading: St Paul to Titus 3:4-7
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest heave, and peace to men who enjoy his favour. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Mass During the Day (10.30am)

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!
Gospel: John 1:1-18



IN HIM WE SEE OUR GOD MADE VISIBLE

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
In the wonder of the incarnation
your eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith
a new and radiant vision of your glory.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see.

Preface of Christmas I – The Roman Missal



As is customary, the Christmas Offertory is our gift to Father David to show our appreciation for everything that he does for our parish – we are truly blessed to have such a good shepherd watching over us. There are several ways in which you can choose to donate; by using the planned giving envelopes; the Digital Collection Plate; by standing order with a reference of Fr David; plain envelope clearly marked 'Fr David Christmas Offertory' - if by cheque please make payable to **Our Lady Help of Christians**.

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: **£335.46**

DCP – **£20.00**

Average Standing Orders: **£553.00**

Total: £908.46

Donations to Willen Hospice: £477.87

Cafod Parish Appeal – Winter Survival Kits - We would like to thank you most sincerely for your extremely generous donations of £728. This will provide much needed warm clothing, fuel and food for vulnerable families facing harsh winter weather in Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Syria. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.
CAFOD Parish Group



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

AN INVITATION TO GRANDPARENTS IN OUR PARISH:

Fr Patrick and Fr David have agreed to set up the Catholic Grandparents Association in our parish. We would meet once month in our parish hall. The meetings are a way of giving each other spiritual support and help us see the value the role of grandparents in handing on the Faith. Each meeting would last about an hour. Beginning with refreshments, there would be a time for prayer, then a reflection, afterwards a discussion where each person would be welcome to share something of their experiences in a supportive and encouraging environment. If you are a grandparent, you will find that these meetings will be invaluable in giving food for thought and encouragement in being witnesses to our Faith. If you are interested in joining in, then please do have a word with Fr David. **The first meeting will be towards the end of January.**



THE HOLY INNOCENTS - During the octave of Christmas, the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighbourhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before mankind. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood.



ST THOMAS BECKETT was born in London in 1118. He was a cleric of the Church of Canterbury and became Chancellor of the kingdom and then in 1162 was chosen to be Archbishop. He strenuously defended the rights of the Church against King Henry II and he was exiled to France for six years. On his return to his country, he again had to bear many trials and finally, in 1170, following the infamous trial in Northampton, he was murdered by the king's followers in Canterbury Cathedral itself. **St Thomas Beckett is the Secondary Patron of the Diocese and so we especially pray today for Bishop David, Bishop Emeritus Peter, the Priests, Deacons, Religious and people of our Diocese & Parish**



Fr David, Fr Malcolm, Fr Patrick, Deacon Peter,
Denise and the Sisters
wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed and Holy Christmas
together with a Blessed and Peaceful New Year